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Next phase of I-64 work will have greater impact on WUSTL community

Plan alternate routes for Dec. 15 closure

By Beth Miller and Jessica Daues

One half down, one more to go: The $535 million project to rebuild I-64/Highway 40 from west of Spoede Road to east of Kingshighway Boulevard is about halfway complete.

On Dec. 15, a few weeks ahead of schedule, the Missouri Department of Transportation will open the western half of the project and close the eastern half from Hanley Road to Kingshighway until Dec. 31, 2009.

Washington University and BJC HealthCare are working with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to ensure that the reconstruction project has the smallest possible impact on faculty, staff, visitors, students and patients. Employees, students and visitors at all of the University's campuses need to plan alternate routes or other modes of transportation.

"The closing of the eastern part of Highway 40 will affect the commutes of many in the Washington University community," said Nicholas L. Stoff, director of Parking and Transportation Services on the Danforth Campus. "Planning ahead and considering alternate routes as well as alternative means of getting to campus, such as MetroLink, MetroBus, car pooling, bicycling or walking, before the closing occurs will save faculty, staff and students many headaches and much frustration."

The second phase will affect School of Medicine employees, too. Kelley Mullen, senior director of clinical operations at the School of Medicine, expects traffic on Kingshighway, McCausland Avenue and Forest Park Parkway to increase. She encourages School of Medicine employees to consider alternate routes such as Tower Grove, Boyle and Vandeventer avenues when traveling to and from work.

"For employees coming from east of the Medical Campus, westbound I-64/US-40 will be re-striped as motorists near the closure at Kingshighway," Mullen said. "As it does now, one lane will drop at the Grand/Forest Park Avenue exit. Another lane will drop at Boyle, leaving only two lanes through to Kingshighway.

"MoDOT also plans to leave the Vandeventer ramp onto westbound I-64/US-40 open, leaving intact another alternate route to get to Kingshighway," Mullen said.

During the yearlong closure of the eastern half, Gateway Constructors will rebuild the pavement, bridges and interchanges between Hanley Road and Kingshighway, including Hanley Road, Big Bend Boulevard, Oakland Avenue, Hampton Avenue and Clayton Avenue.

By Dec. 31, 2009, all lanes on I-64 and Interstate 170 are expected to be open, with final work complete by July 31, 2010. Landscaping should be complete by the end of October 2010.

Benefits-eligible employees and full-time students can apply for the Metro Universal Pass, which provides free access to the MetroLink and MetroBus services. Those interested in obtaining a pass can apply online at the Parking and Transportation Services Web site at parking.wustl.edu. The site also has links to important information about the Highway 40/I-64 project, including commuting alternatives.

A Metro system map, schedules, addresses of MetroLink stations and a list of those with commuter park-ride lots are listed at metrostlouis.org/metrolink/stationlist.asp. Stations that serve WUSTL campuses include the Forsyth Station at West Campus, the Big Bend and Skinker stations for the Danforth Campus and the

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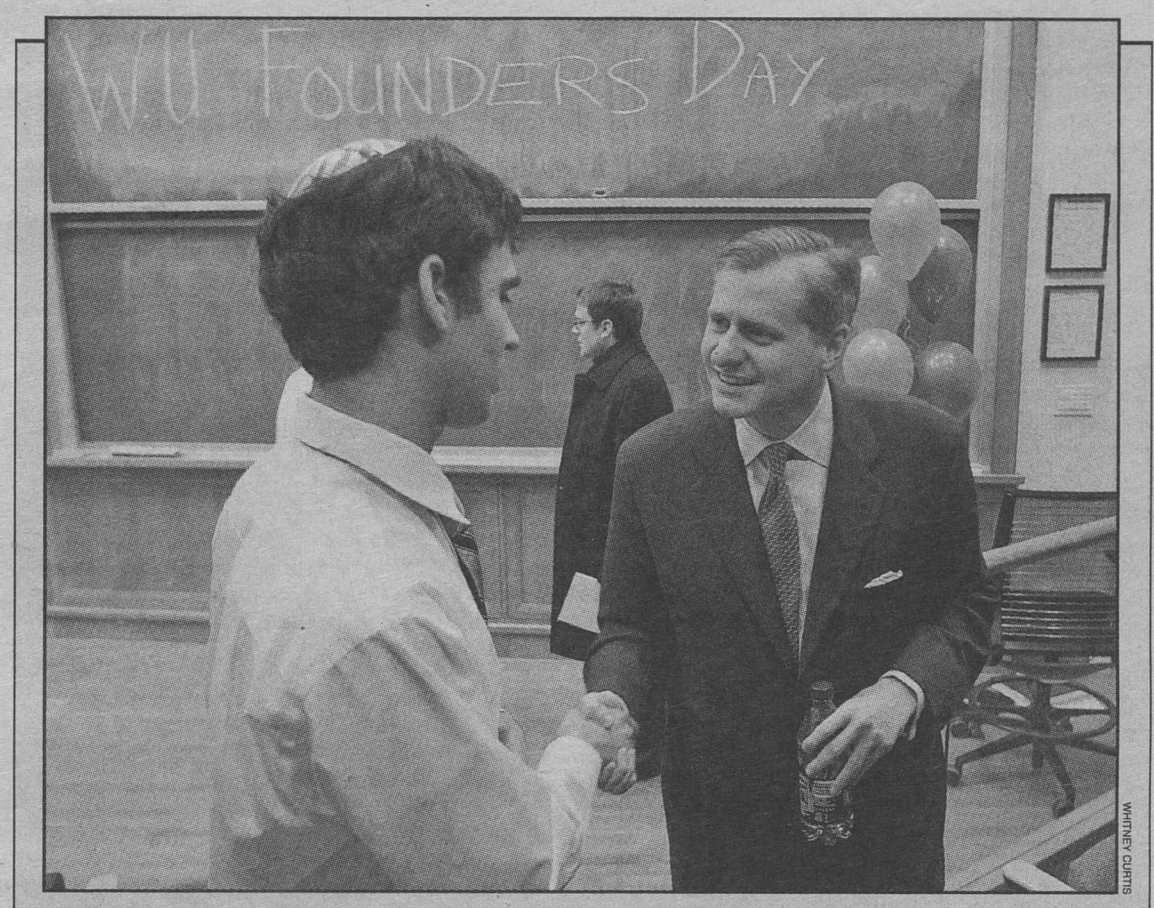

WHITNEY CURTIS

Journalist to journalist Newsweek Editor Jon Meacham, who was in St. Louis Nov. 8 to speak at the annual Founders Day gala, shakes hands with senior Ben Sales, Student Life senior news editor, after an informal session greeting students in Wilson Hall. Meacham took questions from the students — about 80 gathered to meet him — and spent time talking to many of them individually. At the Founders Day dinner that night, his talk centered on leadership, the new political landscape and his recent book, "Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship."

Brain implants may help stroke patients overcome partial paralysis

By Michael C. Purdy

Scientists have shown for the first time that neuroprosthetic brain implants may be able to help stroke patients with partial paralysis.

Researchers found that implants known as brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) may be able to detect activity on one side of the brain that is linked to hand and arm movements on the same side of the body. They hope to use these signals to guide motorized assistance mechanisms that restore mobility in partially paralyzed limbs.

Leuthardt

Partial paralysis on one side of the body results from stroke damage to the opposite side of the brain. This fits with the conventional model of how the brain controls movement, in which signals in one half of the brain control the opposite half of the body. That model led scientists to assume that stroke damage would make it impossible for BCIs to pick up any useful movement control signals from the brain and restore function in the body's paralyzed half.

"In recent years, though, we've come to realize that there's actually some ipsilateral, or same-sided, control signals involved in movement," said senior author Eric C. Leuthardt, M.D., assistant professor of neurological surgery, of neurobiology and of biomedical engineering. "Now we've shown these signals can be detected and are separable from signals that control the opposite side of the body, which means we may be able to use a BCI to restore function."

The study was published online in the journal Stroke.

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Chancellor outlines goals to ensure University's financial strength

To the Washington University Community,

Next week we will pause for the great American tradition of Thanksgiving. The Washington University family has much to be thankful for, including a wonderful community of talented students, great faculty, outstanding staff, highly successful and supportive alumni and many, many friends. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our many blessings, to relax and to enjoy family and friends.

But this Thanksgiving season will be difficult for many, and I am concerned about the hardships members of our community are facing, including our students and their families. Our country faces enormous and immediate challenges stemming from rapid deterioration in the economy that resulted in sharp employment declines; significant losses in the value of investments held by individuals, foundations and institutions; and anxiety about what lies ahead. Washington University, as strong as we are, is not immune to the changes of the last several months.

Washington University is blessed with financial strength. However, the value of the invested assets of the University has declined considerably during the months since the start of this fiscal year (FY09) that began on July 1, 2008. Since July 1, the value of the endowment has declined approximately 25 percent. The Board of Trustees will set the spending rate from the endowment for the next fiscal year, and I anticipate a significant reduction from the amount we had previously been planning for FY10. With the decline in the value of our endowment, coupled with leveling of research support, constraint on the rate of tuition growth, uncertain prospects for philanthropic support, pressures on health-care costs and the prospect of increased needs for financial aid, we must take some actions to assure that our University remains strong into the future. Whatever the origins and whatever the length of the economic decline, it is important to respond to this new environment. We will constrain the growth of administrative expenses, compensation expenses and commitments to new building projects.

To our talented students, you are a principal reason for our existence, and we are fortunate you selected us for your education, whether you are in your first year as an undergraduate or working toward your graduate or professional degree. We have a commitment to you, and we have the strong desire for you to complete your degree program here and join the ranks of other successful Washington University alumni around the country and around the world. Each of you has the potential to complete your degree here, and we do not want your financial challenges to preclude a successful outcome. Education is at the heart of what we do, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

To our faculty and staff, you have contributed significantly to the rise in quality, visibility and impact of the University. Our students and alumni can count your

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'Generous spirit' helps WUSTL exceed United Way goal

By Jessica Daues

Thousands in the St. Louis community will benefit from the generosity of Washington University's faculty, staff and retirees.

The University has raised $602,440 in its United Way of Greater St. Louis campaign, surpassing its stated goal of $600,000.

"I am very proud of everyone in the Washington University community who made a commitment to support the United Way," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "It is a privilege for me to witness the generous spirit of our University when the St. Louis community needs us most."

WUSTL's campaign kicked off in September and reached its targeted dollar amount in early November, helping the United Way of Greater St. Louis exceed its 2008 goal of raising $65.5 million. The United Way has raised approximately $68.4 million in 2008.

"Every year, the University community steps up its efforts to support United Way-funded agencies, and 2008 has been no exception," said Ann Prenatt, vice chancellor for human resources and campaign chair.

"The United Way and the University are grateful to faculty, staff and retirees who opened their hearts and wallets to help others these past few months," Prenatt said. "Through our campaign, during a particularly trying economic period, we will be making a significant contribution to the financial support of agencies that provide vital services and programs.

"I also would like to thank our campaign leaders and volunteers for their hard work and support of this campaign," Prenatt said.

Although WUSTL has reached its goal, it will continue to accept pledges throughout the year. Employees are encouraged to pledge online through HRMS Self Service. Pledge cards also are available. To request a pledge card, contact Lisa Caress at 935-6087 or caresslisa@wustl.edu.

Last year's WUSTL drive raised more than $583,000, exceeding the stated goal of $555,000, and helped the United Way of Greater St. Louis raise $68.8 million in 2007.

Ninety percent of contributions to the United Way of Greater St. Louis — one of the country's highest assistance rates — go directly to nearly 200 organizations that provide services for people living in 16 Missouri and Illinois counties.

Such services include job counseling and job training, affordable child care, disaster relief, violence prevention and more.

For more information about the United Way, visit stl.unitedway.org.

University to end sales of bottled water on campus

By Jessica Daues

Beginning in January, faculty, students and staff on the Danforth, North and West campuses will no longer find bottled water in vending machines or campus eateries.

Because of concerns about the environmental impact of bottled water, the University is ending sales of the product, and administrative offices will no longer offer bottled water at events and meetings. Instead, faculty, staff, students and guests are encouraged to drink tap water and use reusable water containers.

"Plastic bottled water represents significant energy and waste issues," said Matt Malten, assistant vice chancellor for sustainability. "It requires tremendous amounts of energy in production, packaging, transportation and recycling.

"Plastic bottled water represents significant energy and waste issues. It requires tremendous amounts of energy in production, packaging, transportation and recycling."

Matt Malten

"National statistics show that the rate plastic bottles are recycled is low and getting lower, as more end up in landfills," Malten said. "Members of the Washington University community all have access to healthy water from a tap, and drinking tap water eliminates the generation of solid waste and energy usage to produce bottled water."

The tap water in St. Louis was rated as best in the country by the U.S. Mayor's Conference in 2007.

Henry S. Webber, executive vice chancellor for administration, has requested that the deans of each of the University's schools stop offering bottled water at their school's events.

Tap water is readily available on the Danforth, North and West campuses, said Liz Kramer, a fellow in the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration. Nearly all buildings on campus feature multiple drinking fountains, and cold-water containers are located in Holmes Lounge and Whispers Cafe in Olin Library.

Kramer is in the process of mapping the locations of fountains on the Danforth Campus, and the map will be made public once completed.

Reducing the use of bottled water on campus is just one of many steps WUSTL is taking to reduce its impact on the environment. And it's a step, said Deborah Howard, special assistant to the executive vice chancellor for administration, that the administration couldn't implement without the support of others on campus — especially Washington University Dining Services and students, who led their own campaign to promote the use of tap water on campus.

In October, during Campus Sustainability Week, students hosted water taste tests to show that there's little taste difference between bottled water and tap water. Students also sold reusable water bottles at the Danforth University Center.

WUSTL is the first university to ban the sale and use of bottled water in its administrative offices, dining services and vending machines, Kramer said. According to Kramer's research, Johns Hopkins University stopped using bottled water in its president's office last spring, and Brandeis University is considering adopting a ban on the sale of bottled water.

Even with the changes, faculty, staff and students still will be allowed to bring their own bottled water to campus.

"We hope faculty, staff and students will use reusable containers, but the University is not going to be the water bottle police," Howard said.

For more information about tap and bottled water on campus, contact Howard at deborah_howard@wustl.edu or 935-3883.

Letter

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commitments and achievements as blessings. I am thankful to each of you for your creative and dedicated work. Unfortunately, as we consider the financial environment within which we are working, the traditional financial rewards associated with hard work and achievement will be limited.

For FY10, we will not be able to sustain past levels of salary increases, and we are planning lower increases in compensation this year. The vice chancellor for human resources will be working with all supervisors to encourage that compensation increases, in general, be higher for those who are lower in total compensation. I have discussed these matters with the chair of the Board of Trustees, and I proposed and will implement a reduction of my own salary by 5 percent effective Jan. 1, 2009, and another 5 percent reduction effective July 1, 2009. School deans and vice chancellors have volunteered to have no increase in their compensation in the year ahead. These leaders have been asked to review carefully the compensation of their faculty and staff and to assure that their programmatic plans for FY10 can be achieved with realistic expectations of revenue. All vice chancellors have been asked to reduce the rate of growth of administrative expenses as we plan for FY10 and to identify opportunities for expense reductions in the current year.

While we must exercise restraint in compensation and administrative expenses, it will be vital to continue to attract and retain key members of the faculty and staff and to provide financial resources to do so when needed. It is imperative that we remain in a position to add people to maintain momentum in improving our quality and impact, to secure philanthropic support for the University and to continue our progress in improving gender balance and building greater representation of members of minority groups. We also may need to apply new resources to initiatives that will contribute to our future strength, including in areas such as exceptionally promising academic initiatives, compliance, safety and security.

Our programs are strong now and must remain so. New staff additions in the administration will be very limited and require considerable additional justification. New additions to the administrative staff of the central administration must have approval of a committee that includes executive vice chancellors Henry S. Webber, chairman, and Michael R. Cannon; and vice chancellors Barbara A. Feiner and Ann B. Prenatt. Open positions will be reviewed and this same group will determine whether such positions will be filled. New, recurring and one-time commitments to expand the central administration for FY10, some of which have already received "soft approval," are being reviewed and may be eliminated, scaled back or delayed to reduce the rate of growth of expenses.

It is also important for us to scale back, eliminate or delay capital projects. For example, planned renovation and expansion of Mallinckrodt Center at a cost of over $20 million will be delayed indefinitely. The redevelopment of the South 40 will be slowed. New capital projects for schools will be required to have a much larger fraction of the costs assured in the form of philanthropic contributions before construction begins, rather than relying on accumulated reserves. Reserves may well be needed to address financial aid and other future needs.

Two capital projects already underway must be completed. The BJC Institute of Health will be finished in late 2009 and will provide much needed space to respond to research opportunities in medicine in connection with our BioMed 21 initiative. Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Hall will be completed and open in the late summer of 2010 to enable us to expand education and research in biomedical engineering as well as in energy, environment and sustainability. Both of these capital projects will enable the expansion of programs to uncover new knowledge that will respond to critical challenges we face as a nation. In addition, halting or slowing these projects would end up costing us more in the long run.

To our loyal alumni, parents and friends, we thank you for your support and encouragement. Many of you have been financially supportive in the past, and that support has secured for us the financial strength to be flexible at this time of uncertainty. Your support has provided a large endowment for financial aid, for faculty professorships, for programs and for facilities. We have flourished because you have helped us. In addition, through your own accomplishments and association with Washington University, you have encouraged others to view Washington University more favorably. Many among you have encouraged prospective students to explore Washington University for their higher education. At this time of Thanksgiving, I count you as key among our many blessings, and it is my hope that these challenging times are not too adverse for you and your families.

To all who are in the Washington University community, I have several requests. First, let's be supportive of each other. These are not easy times. Befriending those in need at this time can be very meaningful. For those who are able, please continue to support us financially, with special emphasis on support of our scholarship programs. Second, if you are in a situation where you see employment opportunities for the talented students and alumni of the University, please contact us to make these positions known to our graduating students. Internships for continuing students can also make a difference. Finally, to all who encounter talented people seeking a great university experience, refer them to us! We thrive because an exceptional group of students joins us each year, and we encourage prospects to visit us and learn more about what we do and how well we do it.

At all times, but especially in a time like this, we need to balance idealism with pragmatism; optimism with realism. For myself, I pledge to continue to do my best to take actions now that will not compromise our prospects for excellence in the future. This letter summarizes some of our near-term plans; we may have to undertake efforts to introduce greater constraint as this year unfolds.

As uncertain as these days are, I remind everyone of the great year we are having: We welcomed a world-class group of students this fall; a tremendous group of new faculty joined us this year; we rejoice in the successes of our continuing faculty like Mary Jo Bang, Ph.D., professor of English in Arts & Sciences, who won the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry; we launched the Institute for Public Health; we dedicated Harry and Susan Seigle Hall; we opened the Danforth University Center; we hosted the Vice Presidential Debate; faculty, students and staff contributed to establishing that water exists on the surface of Mars; and faculty, students and research staff in the School of Medicine have reported path-breaking research to understand, through genome sequencing, the origins of cancer. Let us work together to continue to enjoy national and world leadership in education, research and service as one of America's finest research university communities.

While we face challenges, I am confident that our financial strength, dedication and creativity will sustain our great University. Even with these challenges in mind, I encourage you to take the coming holiday break to reflect on our many blessings.

Sincerely yours,

Mark S. Wrighton

Brain

New hope given for stroke patients

– from Page 1

BCIs bridge gaps from brain damage and other injuries by using implanted electrodes to link the brain to a computer. The implant relays brain signals to the computer, which interprets those signals to control prosthetic devices or other means of interacting with the environment. In an earlier demonstration of the technology's potential, the same team of scientists showed in 2005 that a patient with a BCI could use the implant to control a video game.

BCIs formerly consisted of small electrodes implanted inside brain tissue to record from individual brain cells. Leuthardt and his colleagues have been developing a different approach known as electrocorticography (ECoG), which uses a plastic sheet filled with electrodes. The sheet rests on the surface of the brain, recording from many neurons at once.

"The old approach was good for acquiring significant signal control, but it suffered from the problem of scar encapsulation," Leuthardt said. "When the electrodes are in the brain for three to six months, scars will form around them that prohibit them from recording brain signals."

Scar tissue does not form around the ECoG grid because it is implanted on the surface of the brain.

Leuthardt's team has shown that the ECoG approach can reveal useful insights into what a patient wants to do by analyzing signals from groups of neurons rather than single neurons. Examples include a desire to move a hand or to speak.

For the new study, researchers worked with six epilepsy patients. To identify brain areas where seizures originated for possible surgical removal, physicians had temporarily implanted grids of electrodes on the surfaces of patients' brains. This allowed the researchers to ask the patients to perform tasks with their hands and to check if the electrode grids could pick up ipsilateral brain signals during the tasks.

"We were able to identify distinct anatomic locations in the brain where these ipsilateral hand control signals occur and to show that they typically are found in the lower-frequency regions of the spectrum of brain activity detected by the BCI," Leuthardt said. "Three of our patients could use these signals or opposite-sided hand control signals to move a computer cursor on a screen."

Although the ECoG implants are currently left in place only temporarily, researchers hope to one day implant them for long-term use.

School of Medicine Update

ROBERT BOSTON

Sulfur and silver Abby Buchwalter (standing), a doctoral student in cell biology and physiology, works with (from left) Donita Hamilton, Amiah Macon and Amanda Jackson, all students at Vashon High School, in an experiment about reduction-oxidation reactions. The students used heat and the sulfur in hardboiled eggs to tarnish pieces of silver and copper, and then used hot water, baking soda and aluminum foil to remove the tarnish. The Vashon students visited the School of Medicine for Women in Science Day, sponsored by the Young Scientist Program and the Association for Women in Science.

Previously unknown cell may help those with Crohn's, colitis

By Gwen Ericson

The tonsils and lymphoid tissues in the intestinal tract that help protect the body from external pathogens are the home base of a rare immune cell newly identified by School of Medicine researchers.

The researchers indicate that the immune cells could have a therapeutic role in inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Their report will appear in an upcoming issue of Nature and is available through advanced online publication.

"These cells have an anti-inflammatory effect," said lead author Marina Cella, M.D., research associate professor of pathology and immunology. "In the gut, we have beneficial bacteria, and it's important that the body does not recognize them as something detrimental and start an inflammatory reaction, which could ultimately promote tissue damage and inflammatory or autoimmune diseases such as IBD. The cells we've discovered are important for keeping such harmful inflammatory processes in check."

The cells are a type of natural killer (NK) cells, which are white blood cells classically known to eliminate tumor cells and cells infected by viruses. Because of their killer tendencies, NK cells are carefully controlled and don't act until they receive the right signal.

Some of the signals that activate the newly discovered cells are the same signals that turn on a different immune cell with strong inflammatory properties that can promote cell death and tissue damage if chronically active. But the anti-inflammatory cells, termed NK-22 cells, that the WUSTL researchers discovered have the opposite effect — they promote cell proliferation and wound healing.

"That finding suggests that these cells play a role in maintaining a balance in the immune system between inflammatory processes and anti-inflammatory processes," said co-author Jason Mills, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and immunology and of developmental biology.

"In the gut, we have beneficial bacteria, and it's important that the body does not recognize them as something detrimental and start an inflammatory reaction."
Marina Cella

"They make sure that factors that turn up inflammation can be counteracted by the coordinated activation of anti-inflammatory effects."

The NK-22 cells are part of the innate immune system, which reacts quickly to invading pathogens. The researchers found that in response to immune signals warning of foreign invaders, the cells produce copious quantities of a compound called IL-22, which is why the researchers named them NK-22 cells.

"NK-22 cells are already present in the mucosal tissue of the gastrointestinal tract, and as soon as they see a pathogen, they react," Cella said. "That is a great advantage to the body because it produces a protective response in the very first hours of pathogenic attack."

Now that immunologists know NK-22 cells exist and what immune factors influence them, they may be able to capitalize on them to treat a variety of inflammatory diseases.

"Diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease result from a defect in the intestine's protective barrier," said senior author Marco Colonna, M.D., professor of pathology and immunology. "If we can develop methods to culture NK-22 cells, we may be able to use them to promote healing and protect the gastrointestinal tract."

ROBERT BOSTON

Comic relief Rachel Hannebaum (Ninja Turtle) and Simon Hoehn (Venom), both second-year students in the Program in Physical Therapy, take part in the clinical education lottery, in which students choose the locations for their three clinical rotations. Students dress up in costumes based on a theme for the day — this year it was superheroes and villains.

Brain scans show link between education, Alzheimer's disease

By Michael C. Purdy

A test that reveals brain changes believed to be at the heart of Alzheimer's disease has bolstered the theory that education can delay the onset of the dementia and cognitive decline that are characteristic of the disorder.

School of Medicine scientists at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center found that some study participants who appeared to have the brain plaques long associated with Alzheimer's still received high scores on tests of their cognitive ability. Participants who did well on the tests were likely to have spent more years in school.

"The good news is that greater education may allow people to harbor amyloid plaques and other brain pathology linked to Alzheimer's disease without experiencing decline of their cognitive abilities," said first author Catherine Roe, Ph.D., research instructor in neurology.

The findings are published in the November Archives of Neurology.

Roe and her colleagues at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center used the study participants' education levels to approximate a theoretical quality called cognitive reserve: improved abilities in thinking, learning and memory that result from regularly challenging and making use of the brain. Neurologists have long speculated that this quality, roughly equivalent to the benefits that accrue in the body via regular physical exercise, can help the brain cope with the damage caused by Alzheimer's disease.

Doctors still cannot conclusively diagnose Alzheimer's disease in any manner other than post-mortem brain examination. But WUSTL scientists have shown that an imaging agent for positron emission tomography scans, Pittsburgh Compound B (PIB), can reveal the presence of amyloid plaques, a key brain change that many neurologists suspect either causes Alzheimer's or is closely linked to its onset.

"This technique has been used before to analyze patients with dementia and their education levels, but our study is among the first, if not the first, to include both patients with Alzheimer's-type dementia and nondemented participants," Roe said.

In addition to having their brains scanned with PIB, the participants took several tests that assessed their cognitive abilities and status. They also ranked their educational experience: high-school degree or less, college experience up to an undergraduate degree and graduate schooling.

As expected, those whose brains showed little evidence of plaque buildup scored high on all the tests. But while most participants with high levels of brain plaque scored poorly on the tests, those who had done postgraduate work still scored well. Despite signs that Alzheimer's might already be ravaging the brains of this subgroup, their cognitive abilities had not declined and they had not become demented.

Roe and her colleagues plan follow-up studies that will look at other potential indicators of increased cognitive reserve, including hobbies, social and intellectual activities and the mental challenges provided by professional duties.

Worm genome offers clues to parasitism

By Caroline Arbanas

The genome of a humble worm that dines on the microbial organisms covering the carcasses of dead beetles may provide clues to the evolution of parasitic worms, including those that infect humans, say scientists at the School of Medicine and the Max-Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Germany.

In a paper published in Nature Genetics, the researchers reported finding some surprises as they have decoded the genome of the worm, a tiny nematode called *Pristionchus pacificus*.

"We found a larger number of genes than we expected," said Sandra Clifton, Ph.D., research associate professor of genetics and a co-author of the paper. "These include genes that help the worms live in a hostile environment, the result of living in and being exposed to the byproducts of decaying beetle carcasses, and others that also have been found in plant parasitic nematodes. The genome supports the theory that *P. pacificus* might be a precursor to parasitic worms."

Scientists estimate there are tens of thousands of nematode species. The worms are typically just one millimeter long and can be found in every ecosystem on Earth. Parasitic nematodes can infect humans as well as animals and plants.

One nematode in particular is well known in scientific circles: *Caenorhabditis elegans* has long been used as a model organism in research laboratories. Its genome sequence was completed in 1998 by WUSTL genome scientists working as part of an international research collaboration.

Unlike *C. elegans*, which lives in the dirt, *P. pacificus* makes its home in an unusual ecological niche: It lives together with oriental beetles in the United States and Japan in order to devour the bacteria, fungi and other small roundworms that grow on beetle carcasses after they have died. While the beetles are alive and the nematodes' food source is scarce, the worms live in a "resting" stage, in which they don't eat or reproduce.

This suspended state is thought to be the infective state of parasitic nematodes. According to the World Health Organization, parasitic nematodes infect about 2 billion people worldwide and severely sicken some 300 million.

The genome of *P. pacificus*, which was sequenced at the Genome Sequencing Center, is substantially larger and more complex than *C. elegans*. It has nearly 170,000 chemical bases and contains 23,500 protein-coding genes. By comparison, *C. elegans* and the human parasitic nematode *Brugia malayi*, whose genome was sequenced in 2007, only have about 20,000 and 12,000 protein-coding genes, respectively. Infection with *B. malayi* causes lymphatic filariasis, which can lead to elephantiasis, a grotesque enlargement of the arms, legs and genitals.

Interestingly, the *P. pacificus* genome contains a number of genes for cellulases — enzymes that are required to break down cell walls of plants and microorganisms. These genes are nonexistent in *C. elegans*, although they have been found in plant parasitic nematodes.

University Events

Washington University Dance Theatre to present 'Common Ground'

BY LIAM OTTEN

Washington University Dance Theatre (WUDT), the annual showcase of professionally choreographed works performed by student dancers, will present "Common Ground" at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 7 in Edison Theatre.

Sponsored by the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences, the performance will feature more than three dozen student dancers, selected by audition, in eight works by faculty and guest choreographers. Pieces range from contemporary dance and restagings of modern classics to dances drawing on Chinese and Indian traditions.

"Common Ground" will highlight two important historical works set by distinguished visiting artists. James Jordan, ballet master for the Kansas City Ballet, has set "Dark Elegies" (1937), the classic modern ballet by Antony Tudor (1908-1987).

Choreographed to Gustav Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder (Songs on the Death of Children)," this poignant work for 12 dancers depicts a community in mourning and is filled with halting movements and cradling gestures that suggest grieving parents.

Liz Lerman, founding artistic director of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, has restaged "Still Crossing" (1986), a large ensemble piece that The New York Times described as "a visionary work of extraordinary eloquence." One of Lerman's signature works, "Still Crossing" enlists nine primary dancers as well as a score of untrained community volunteers to explore both the promise and the hardships of the immigrant experience.

DAVID KILPER

"Falling Petals," a dance from the Washington University Dance Theatre showcase Dec. 5-7, combines contemporary dance with Chinese practice and philosophy.

"Both 'Dark Elegies' and 'Still Crossing' mark centennials," said Cecil Slaughter, senior lecturer in dance and director of WUDT. "'Dark Elegies' commemorates the 100th anniversary of Tudor's birth, while 'Still Crossing' was originally choreographed for the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. And both works are about the idea of community — one in mourning, the other in celebration."

That sense of community extends to other works choreographed by the PAD dance faculty. "We're all very different choreographers and come from different dance traditions, but there's also an underlying sense of unity," Slaughter said. "We're all trying to expand our individual processes and, with WUDT, find a kind of common artistic ground. This is probably the most stylistically diverse yet thematically coherent concert we've given."

Also on the program:

"Manic Music II." Mary-Jean Cowell, associate professor and coordinator of the Dance Program, choreographs this wryly humorous work for 11 dancers. Inspired by the American Federation of Musicians' early 20th-century ban on Ragtime music, the piece suggests a kind of dance mania, in which listeners are unable to resist Ragtime's "diabolical" allure.

"Falling Petals." Ting-Ting Chang, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the PAD, offers this work for 10 dancers, which combines contemporary dance with Chinese practice and philosophy. The piece recently received The Bette & Bill Pattis Grand Award in the 10th Annual Dance Under Stars Choreography Festival at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, Calif.

"Ganesha Sharanam." Adjunct instructor Asha Prem choreographs this classical Indian work for six dancers, which begins with a series of sculptural poses and also includes a description of Ganesha, the Hindu god.

"Overdrive." Slaughter choreographs this piece for eight dancers, which is excerpted from a larger work created for his company, The Slaughter Project. Inspired by traffic, the dance presents "an acceleration of process, action and interaction."

"Passion." Keith Tyrone Williams, adjunct lecturer in dance, choreographs this Afro-Caribbean flavored work for nine dancers. "Not until we acknowledge and embrace our passions do we truly live in a state of 'soul' satisfaction," said Williams, a former dancer for Kathryn Dunham who now teaches Dunham technique. "Otherwise, we are in bondage to mere existing."

"Common Ground." The evening concludes with this grand-scaled work by David W. Marchant, senior lecturer in dance. Recalling the raucous energy of raves and rock concerts, the dance "brings the entire Washington University Dance Theatre cast out onto the stage and invites audience members to stand and join, dissolving the proscenium theater boundary, bringing all of us together on 'common ground.'"

Tickets — $10 for students, seniors and faculty and staff and $15 to the public — are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office and all MetroTix outlets.

For more information, call 935-6543.

Seagull Diner • Dickinson's Poetry • Volcanism on Venus

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place Nov. 20-Dec. 10 at Washington University. An extra week has been added due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Visit the Web for expanded calendars for the Danforth Campus (news-info.wustl.edu/calendars) and the School of Medicine (medschool.wustl.edu/calendars.html).

Exhibits

"Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design and Culture at Midcentury." Through Jan. 5. Kemper Art Museum, 935-4523.

"Bold Strokes and Finesse: The Stage Designs of John Ezell." Through Nov. 22. Des Lee Gallery, 1627 Washington Ave. 621-8537.

Film

Friday, Nov. 21

7 p.m. Children's Film Symposium. "Pixar Shorts." Saint Louis Art Museum. 935-5576

Saturday, Nov. 22

Noon. Children's Film Symposium. "Matchmaker Mary." Tom Whitus, dir. Brown Hall Aud. 935-5576.

2:30 p.m. Children's Film Symposium. "The Flyboys." Rocco DeVilliers, dir. Brown Hall Aud. 935-5576.

5 p.m. Children's Film Symposium. "The Making of WALL-E." Andrew Stanton, dir. Brown Hall Aud. 935-5576.

7:30 p.m. Children's Film Symposium. "King of the Hill." Steven Soderburgh, dir. Brown Hall Aud. 935-5576.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

7 p.m. Japanese Film Series. "Seagull Diner." Naoko Ogigami, dir. Seigle Hall, Rm. L006. 935-5110.

Thursday, Dec. 4

7 p.m. Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Film Series. Middle East-North Africa Film Series. "Persepolis." V. Paronnaud and M. Strapi, dirs. Brown Hall, Rm. 118. 935-8567

Tuesday, Dec. 9

7 p.m. Kemper Art Museum Film Festival. Some Like It Cool Film Series. "Rebel Without a Cause." Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar Blvd. 935-4523.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

7 p.m. Kemper Art Museum Film Festival. Some Like It Cool Film Series. "Anatomy of a Murder." Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar Blvd. 935-4523.

Lectures

Thursday, Nov. 20

Noon. Genetics Seminar. "Evolution of Darwin's Finches." Peter R, Grant, prof of zoology, ecology & evolutionary biology, and Rosemary Grant, senior research biologist, Princeton U. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-2139.

4 p.m. Chemistry Seminar. "Au/Pt-Catalyzed Organic Reactions." Liming Zhang, asst. prof. of chemistry, U. of Nev., Reno. McMillen Lab., Rm. 311. 935-6530.

4 p.m. History Colloquium. "Where Elites Meet: Households, Harem Visits and Sea-Bathing in Pre-Colonial Tunisia c. 1830-1881." Julia Clancy-Smith, assoc. prof. of history, U. of Ariz. Co-sponsored by Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies. (Reception follows.) Eliot Hall, Rm. 300M. 935-5450.

4 p.m. Vision Science Seminar Series. "Of Wine and Vision: Role of Resveratrol in Regulating Angiogenesis." Rajendra S. Apte, asst. prof. of ophthalmology & visual science. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-3315.

5 p.m. Historia Medica Lecture. "Anatomy Lessons: Reading the Body in Emily Dickinson's Poetry." Barbara Baumgartner, senior lecturer in women, gender & sexuality studies. Becker Medical Library, Lvl. 7, Kenton King Center. 362-2774.

8 p.m. The Writing Program Fall Reading Series Lecture. Steve Stern, author, lectures on the craft of fiction. Duncker Hall, Rm. 201, Hurst Lounge. 935-7130.

Friday, Nov. 21

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. Annual Chief Residents' Invited Lecture. "In Defense of Food: The Omnivore's Solution." Michael Pollan, prof. of journalism, U. of Calif., Berkeley. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

11 a.m. Electrical & Systems Engineering Seminar. "Signal Processing in Landmine Detection: Recent Advances and Challenges." Dominic K.C. Ho, prof. of electrical and computer engineering, U. of Mo. Bryan Hall, Rm. 305. 935-5565.

11 a.m. Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering Seminar Series. "CO_2 Capture and Storage for Coal Power Plants: Status and R&D Needs." Jeff Phillips, senior program manager, Electric Power Research Inst. Lopata Hall, Rm. 101. 935-5548.

Noon. Cell Biology and Physiology Seminar. "The Role of M-CSF in the Osteoclast." F. Patrick Ross, research prof. of pathology & immunology. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 426. 362-6950.

2:15 p.m. Physics Seminar. McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences Seminar. "Probing Particle Dark Matter with Gamma-Ray and Neutrino Telescopes." Shin'ichiro Ando, postdoctoral student in theoretical physics, Calif. Inst. of Technology. (2 p.m. coffee.) Compton Hall, Rm. 241. 935-6276.

4 p.m. Romance Languages & Literatures Lecture. "La Langue de L'etranger: On Jacques Derrida's Monolingualism of the Other." Reda Bensmaia, chair, Dept. of French, Brown U. Duncker Hall, Rm. 201, Hurst Lounge. 935-5175.

7:30 p.m. Saint Louis Astronomical Society Meeting. "The Evolution of Volcanism on Venus." Christopher Orth, research asst. in Arts & Sciences. McDonnell Hall, Rm. 162. 935-4614.

Monday, Nov. 24

11 a.m. Computer Science & Engineering Colloquium. "Towards an RTT-fair Congestion-Control Protocol for Terabit Networks." Jasleen Kaur, asst. prof. of computer science, U. of N.C. at Chapel Hill. Cupples II Hall, Rm. 217. 935-6160.

Noon. Infectious Diseases Lecture. "Raltegravir and Other New Antiretroviral Agents: Focus on Resistance." Rodger D. MacArthur, prof. of medicine, Wayne State U. Barnes-Jewish Hosp. Bldg., Steinberg Amphitheatre. 454-8276.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "Complex Targeting of Immune Receptor Function by Orthopoxviruses." Leon Carayannopoulos, asst. prof. of medicine. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Connor Aud. 362-2763.

5:30 p.m. Cardiac Bioelectricity and Arrhythmia Center Seminar. "How to Make an Antiarrhythmic Drug Out of a Local Anesthetic: Drug Interactions with Voltage-gated Na Channels." Dorothy A. Hanck, prof. of cardiology, U. of Chicago. (5 p.m. reception.) Whitaker Hall, Rm. 218. 935-7887.

6:30 p.m. Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series. Fumihiko Maki Lecture. Steven Holl, principal, Steven Holl Architects, New York. Steinberg Aud. 935-9300.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "L-Form Bacteria Revisited in the Molecular Era: Life With No Wall or Division Machinery." Jeff Errington, dir., Inst. for Cell and Molecular Biosciences, Newcastle U. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-7650.

Monday, Dec. 1

10 a.m. Electrical & Systems Engineering Seminar. "Probe Selection from Array Data." William Shannon, prof. of biostatistics. Bryan Hall, Rm. 305. 935-5565.

Noon. Work, Families and Public Policy Brown Bag Seminar Series. "Defining Family." Kathy Baker, Northwestern U. School of Law. Seigle Hall, Rm. 348. 935-4918.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "Untangling the Roles of HVEM-BTLA and Light in Innate and Adaptive Immunity." Mitchell Kronenberg, adjunct prof. of biological sciences, U. of Calif., San Diego. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Connor Aud. 362-2763.

5:30 p.m. Cardiac Bioelectricity and Arrhythmia Center Seminar. R. Martin Arthur, prof. of engineering. (5 p.m. reception.) Whitaker Hall, Rm. 218. 935-7887.

6:30 p.m. Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series. The Coral Courts Lecture. Lindy Roy, principal, ROY Co., New York. Steinberg Aud. 935-9300.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "Escape From the Red Cell: Proteases in Egress of the Malaria Parasite." Michael J. Blackman, program leader in the Div. of Parasitology, National Inst. for Medical Research. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-1514.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Center for the Application of Information Technology Training Workshop. "The Business-IT Partnership: Delivering Business Results." Cost: $930; reduced fees available for CAIT member organizations. CAIT, 5 N. Jackson Ave. To register: 935-4444.

Noon. Siteman Cancer Center Prevention and Control Seminar Series. "Can We End the Global Tobacco Epidemic?" Jonathan Samet, founding dir., Inst. for Global Health, U. of Southern Calif. Goldfarb Hall, Rm. 132. 454-8981.

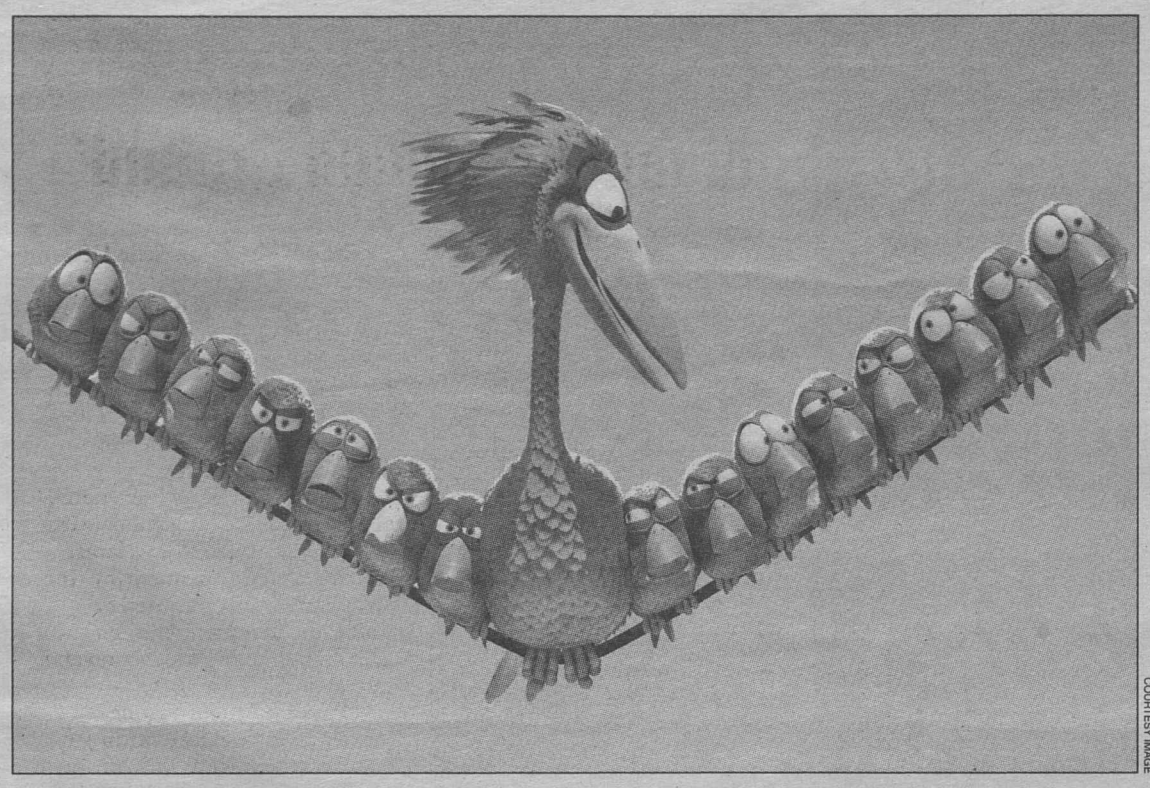
Thursday, Dec. 4

Noon. Genetics Seminar. "Predictive Behavior Within Microbial Genetic Networks." Saeed Tavazoie, assoc. prof. of molecular biology, Princeton U. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-2139.

4 p.m. Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Seminar. "The Remarkable Evolution of Cro Proteins." Matthew Cordes, assoc. prof. of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, U. of Ariz. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 264. 362-4152.

4 p.m. History Colloquium. "Rediscovering Thomas Jefferson." David Konig, prof. of history. (Reception follows.) Eliot Hall, Rm. 300M. 935-5450.

4 p.m. Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies Lecture. "Fact, Fiction and Notoriety: The Art of Reading Ancient Jewish Inscriptions." Jonathan Price, prof. of classics & history, Tel Aviv U. Eads Hall, Rm. 216. 935-8567.



COURTESY IMAGE

"For the Birds," a Pixar film released in 2001, will be one of the short films shown Friday, Nov. 21, at the Children's Film Symposium.

Fifth Annual Children's Film Symposium

Washington University's Center for the Humanities and Program in Film & Media Studies, both in Arts & Sciences, will host the Fifth Annual Children's Film Symposium Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22.

Presented in conjunction with Cinema St. Louis, the festival will feature five screenings as well as introductions and postshow discussions by a half-dozen of the films' creators.

All events are free and open to the public.

The first screening, "Pixar Shorts," will take place in the auditorium of the Saint Louis Art Museum. All other events take place in Brown Hall Auditorium.

The schedule:

Friday, Nov. 21

7 p.m. "Pixar Shorts" (2007). This film features a dozen rare theatrical shorts spanning the history of Disney/Pixar, the studio responsible for such modern family classics as "Toy Story," "Monsters, Inc." and "Finding Nemo." Introducing the screening will be Jeremy Lasky, a director of photography for Pixar, who also will conduct a postshow question-and-answer session.

Saturday, Nov. 22

Noon. "Matchmaker Mary" (2008). Shot in Lee's Summit, Mo., this family-friendly tale stars Dee Wallace, a former Kansas City resident best known for her role as Mary in "E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial," and Katherine McNamara, 12, a Lee's Summit native making her screen debut. The story centers on Mary Carver, a sixth grader (played by McNamara) who attempts to broker romance between two lonely people she meets at an animal shelter, where all three are adopting puppies. Following the screening will be a Q&A session with director Tom Whitus and co-star Jilanne Barnes.

2:30 p.m. "The Flyboys" (2008). Directed by Rocco DeVilliers and featuring Stephen Baldwin and Tom Sizemore, this rollicking adventure won best film at the 2008 Sedona Film Festival. The story follows two small-town boys (played by Jesse James and Reiley McClendon) whose courage is tested when they become accidental stowaways aboard an airplane owned by the mob. The screening will be followed by a talk with producer Lisle Moore.

5 p.m. "The Making of WALL-E" (2008). A peek behind the scenes of last summer's animated offering by Disney/Pixar. Written and directed by Andrew Stanton, whose previous credits include "A Bug's Life" and "Finding Nemo," the computer-animated tale follows a wide-eyed robot (whose name stands for "Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class") as he travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend — and the only friend he has ever had. A reception for Pixar's Lasky follows.

7:30 p.m. "King of the Hill" (1993). Based on the memoir by alumnus A.E. Hotchner and adapted and directed by Steven Soderbergh, "King of the Hill" stars Jesse Bradford as 12-year-old Aaron Kurlander. Separated from his parents and younger brother, Aaron must fend for himself while living in a run-down hotel in Depression-era St. Louis. Attendees will include producer Ron Yerxa and local casting director Carrie Houk. The movie, presented in conjunction with the Missouri Center for the Book, is rated PG-13 for mild profanity and one implied sexual situation.

For more information, call the Center for the Humanities at 935-5576.

Register to win a season PassPort to Black Rep

BY JESSICA DAUES

Faculty and staff can register to win one of 30 season PassPorts to The Black Rep.

A season PassPort contains five ticket vouchers, which are redeemable at any time during the 2009 season. Winners will be chosen in a drawing in December.

To enter, visit diversity.wustl.edu/blackrep.htm. One entry per person is allowed.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and the WUSTL Diversity Initiative are sponsoring the drawing for the third consecutive year.

All entries must be submitted by Dec. 14. Winners will be notified the week of Dec. 15.

Georgia Binnington, associate dean of students in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, won a season pass to last year's lineup and took her granddaughter to see "Sarafina."

"What a great opportunity this pass gave me," Binnington said.

"I love the Black Rep productions. They are always inspiring and thought-provoking."

The Black Rep's 32nd season begins Jan. 7 with "Tell Me Somethin' Good," which is on the Main Stage at the Grandel Theatre through Feb. 8.

Other Main Stage shows this season include "A Song for Coretta" (Feb. 18-March 15), "My Secret Language of Wishes" (March 25-April 19), "In the Continuum" (April 29-May 17) and "Blues in the Night" (May 27-June 28).

The Black Rep is the nation's largest professional African-American theater company and was established in 1976 by Ron Himes, then a student at WUSTL.

Annual Campus Store event Dec. 3

BY JESSICA DAUES

The Campus Store is giving faculty and staff members an opportunity to do some early holiday shopping.

The store will hold its 11th annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Event Dec. 3 and will offer a 30 percent discount to Washington University faculty and staff members from 3-8 p.m.

To receive the discount, faculty and staff members will need to bring either their WUSTL I.D. cards or an invitation to the event, which were sent via campus mail in mid-November.

WUSTL faculty and staff members normally receive a 20 percent discount at the bookstore.

The event will feature door prizes, complimentary light refreshments and a performance from 3-6:30 p.m. by the William Lenihan Trio, a jazz band led by William Lenihan, director of jazz performance in the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences.

In addition, faculty and staff members who enroll in the store's "We're Reading" free frequent buyer program during the event will receive a complimentary copy of the 2009 Book Lover's calendar while supplies last.

"My staff and I always look forward to hosting the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Event," said Betsy Schneider, Campus Store director. "We invite all WUSTL faculty and staff members to stop by the Campus Store and mingle with colleagues, listen to the wonderful music of the William Lenihan Trio and enjoy great savings — all while getting a jump start on your holiday shopping."

The 30 percent discount is good for general reading books and merchandise, including clothing and gifts. New York Times Best Sellers, course books and computer hardware, software and peripherals are not eligible for the discount.

The store is located on the main floor of Mallinckrodt Student Center on the University's Danforth Campus.

For more information about the event or what items are eligible for the discount, visit the Campus Store or call 935-5500.

4 p.m. Vision Science Seminar Series. "Interleukin-10 Overexpression Results in Chronic Macrophage-Mediated Demyelinating Polyneuropathy." Dru S. Dace, postdoctoral research assoc. in ophthalmology & visual science. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-3315.

Friday, Dec. 5

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Women's Health CME Course. Annual Contemporary Women's Health Issues. "Women and Aging: What Is Preventable and What Is Inevitable?" Cost: $160 for physicians, $110 for allied health professionals. Eric P. Newman Education Center. To register: 362-6891.

Noon. Cell Biology and Physiology Seminar. "Imaging GPCR Signaling in Living Cells." N. Gautam, prof. of anesthesiology. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 426. 362-6950.

4 p.m. Dept. of Music Lecture Series. "Olivier Messiaen at 100." Hugh Macdonald, prof. of music. Music Classroom Bldg., Rm. 102. 935-5566.

Monday, Dec. 8

4 p.m. Siteman Cancer Center Basic Science Seminar Series. "Cancer Immunoediting: Using Mouse Cancer Models to Guide us Towards Novel Human Cancer Immunotherapies?" Robert Schreiber, prof. of pathology & immunology. Co-sponsored by Tumor Immunology Research Seminar Series. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Connor Aud. 454-7029.

4 p.m. Physics Seminar. Condensed Matter/Materials and Biological Physics Seminar. "Novel Quantum Criticality and Emergent Particles in Trapped Cold Atom Systems." Kun Yang, prof. of physics, Fla. State U. (3:45 p.m. coffee.) Compton Hall, Rm. 241. 935-6276.

5:30 p.m. Cardiac Bioelectricity and Arrhythmia Center Seminar. "Dual Energy Quantitative X-Ray CT Imaging." Joseph A. O'Sullivan, prof. of electrical and systems engineering. (5 p.m. reception.) Whitaker Hall, Rm. 218. 935-7887.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "Role of the AP-4 Complex in Sorting of the Amyloid Precursor Protein." Juan S. Bonifacino, cell biology and metabolism, National Inst. of Health. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3692.

5:30 p.m. Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Seminar. Biophysical Evening Seminar. "Animating the Transport Cycle: The Role of Protein Dynamics in Multidrug Resistance Activity of EmrE." Katherine Henzler-Wildman, asst. prof. of biochemistry and molecular biophysics. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-4152.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Center for the Application of Information Technology Training Workshop. (Continues 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dec. 11.) "The Politics of IT Project Management." Cost: $1,250; reduced fees available for CAIT member organizations. CAIT, 5 N. Jackson Ave. To register: 935-4444.

4 p.m. Vision Science Seminar Series. "Neuroprotection and Retinal Ganglion Cell Death in Glaucoma." Cynthia L. Grosskreutz, assoc. prof. of ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-3315.

Music

Thursday, Nov. 20

8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes. Fo[u]r Peace Band. Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-4841.

How to submit 'University Events'

Submit "University Events" items to Angela Hall of the Record staff via:

e-mail — recordcalendar@wustl.edu

campus mail — Campus Box 1070

fax — 935-4259

Upon request, forms for submitting events will be e-mailed, mailed or faxed to departments to be filled out and returned.

Deadline for submissions is noon the Thursday prior to publication date.

Saturday, Nov. 22

4 p.m. Concert. Chamber Winds. Danforth University Center Commons. 935-5566.

Sunday, Nov. 23

3 p.m. Concert. Symphony Orchestra. E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Trinity Ave. 935-5566.

Monday, Nov. 24

3 p.m. Concert. Master Class. Orli Shaham, piano. E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Trinity Ave. 935-5566.

Monday, Dec. 1

7 p.m. Concert. Jazz Combo. Theater, 560 Trinity Ave. 935-5566.

8 p.m. Student Recital. Graham Chapel. 935-5566.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

4 p.m. Concert. Jazz Band. Formal Lounge, Danforth University Center. 935-5566.

Thursday, Dec. 4

8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes. Steve Schenkel, guitar, and Ashley Mason, vocals. Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-4841.

Friday, Dec. 5

8 p.m. Concert. Concert Choir. Graham Chapel. 935-5566.

Sunday, Dec. 7

3 p.m. Concert. Messiah Sing-Along. Graham Chapel. 935-5566.

Monday, Dec. 8

8 p.m. Concert. Flute Choir. Graham Chapel. 935-5566.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

8 p.m. Concert. Chamber String Ensembles. Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-5566.

On Stage

Thursday, Nov. 20

8 p.m. Performing Arts Dept. Presentation. "Boston Marriage" by David Mamet. Annamaria Pileggi, dir. (Also 8 p.m. Nov. 21 & 22; 2 p.m. Nov. 22 & 23.) Cost: $15, $9 for students, children, seniors, WUSTL faculty & staff. Mallinckrodt Student Center, A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. 935-6543.

Saturday, Nov. 22

8 p.m. OVATIONS! Series. "Rose." A concert reading by Olympia Dukakis. Cost: $40. (Reception follows. Cost: $50). Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Friday, Dec. 5

8 p.m. Performing Arts Dept. Presentation. "Common Ground." (Also 8 p.m. Dec. 6; 2 p.m. Dec. 7.) Cost: $15, $10 for students, faculty and staff. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Sports

Friday, Nov. 21

7 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Central College. Tip-off Tournament. (Continues 2 p.m. Nov. 22.) Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

Saturday, Nov. 22

10 a.m. Swimming and Diving. WUSTL Thanksgiving Invitational. (Continues 10 a.m. Nov. 23.) Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

Saturday, Nov. 29

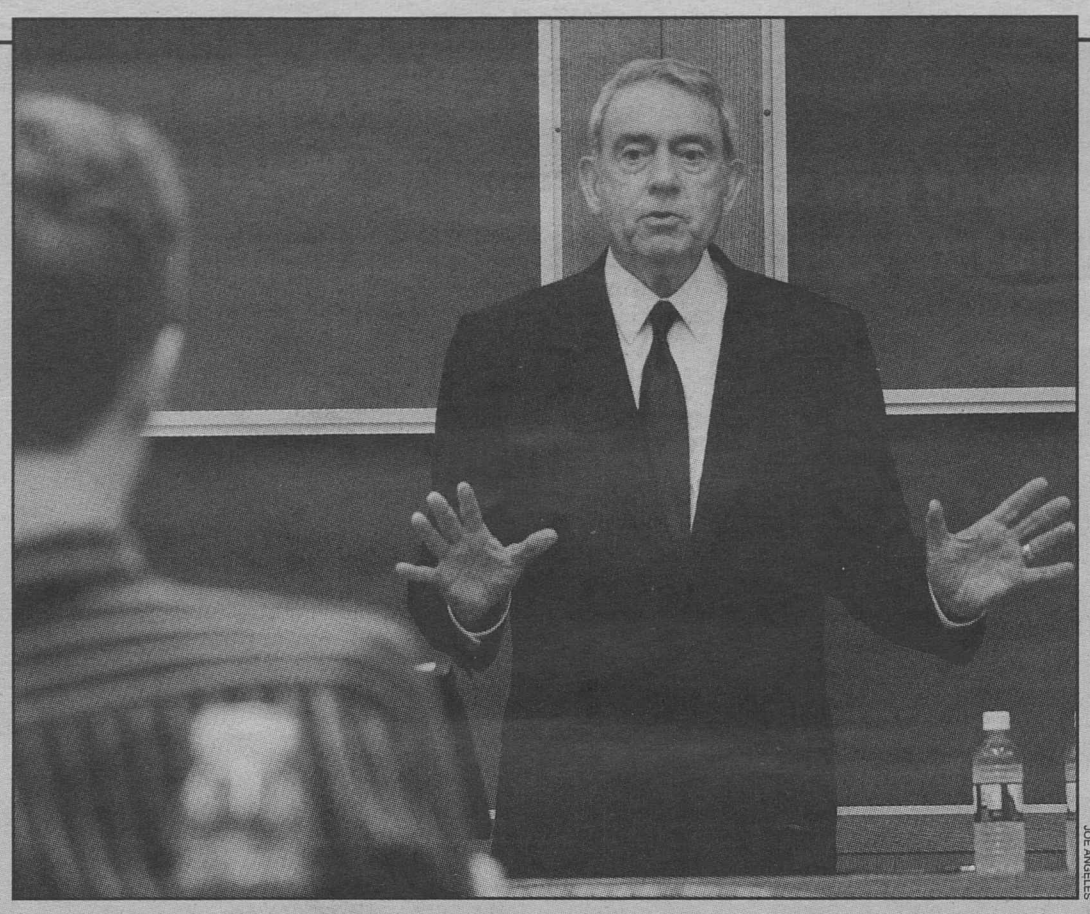
3 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Whittier College. Annual McWilliams Classic. (Continues 1 p.m. Nov. 30.) Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

Friday, Dec. 5

8 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Hamilton College. Annual Lopata Classic. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

Saturday, Dec. 6

3 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Ill. Wesleyan U. Annual Lopata Classic. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.



JOE ANGELES

Dan Rather reports Award-winning journalist Dan Rather speaks to the Nov. 14 "Afghanistan: Microcosm of International Crisis" class taught by Thomas Schweich, J.D., visiting professor and ambassador-in-residence at the School of Law. Schweich and Rather met during Schweich's tenure as the ambassador for counternarcotics and justice reform in Afghanistan. Rather also spoke to the "Speech, Press & the Constitution" class taught by Gregory Magarian, J.D., professor of law. Rather is the anchor and managing editor of "Dan Rather Reports" on HDNet.

I-64

Many options available to avoid bottlenecks

– from Page 1

Central West End station for the Medical Campus.

In addition, employees and students can use the RideFinders regional rideshare program, car pool with co-workers or bicycle or walk to WUSTL campuses.

Those who use alternate modes of transportation can take advantage of the WeCar car-sharing program available on the Danforth and Medical Campuses. Users must register to participate in the program. To reserve a car, visit wecar.com/wustl. The cars are available at an hourly rate to current WUSTL students, faculty, staff or qualified service providers age 18 and older with a valid driver's license and credit card. The hourly rate to use a WeCar is $10.

Those who choose to drive to the campuses can check the project Web site, thenewi64.org, which is updated regularly and allows motorists to sign up for e-mailed updates on the construction schedule. The site also has the Map My Trip tool, an interactive map that allows motorists to enter their starting point and destination to get alternate routes. Visit dist6.modot.mo.gov/mapmytrip.

The Gateway Guide cameras, sensors and message boards will operate inside the Interstate 270 loop at all times, providing travel times on all of the area's interstates. These are available online at gatewayguide.com.

MoDOT also has a 511 telephone number for motorists to get traffic updates and travel times.

School of Medicine employees may consider alternate options and routes:

- Use MetroLink's Central West End station;
- Use alternate routes such as I-70, I-44, I-55, Forest Park Parkway, Manchester Road, Olive Street Road, Delmar Avenue, Page Avenue or Lindell Boulevard;
- Use Taylor, Newstead, Boyle and Tower Grove overpasses to the east of the Medical Center.

Danforth Campus employees may consider alternate options and routes:

- Use alternate routes such as I-44, Forest Park Parkway, McCausland, Olive, Page or Clayton Road;
- Use MetroLink's Big Bend and Skinker stations.

University prepares for highway shutdown

The University already has several alternatives in place to lessen the impact of the construction.

The Parking and Transportation Office's Web site (transportation.wustl.edu) provides information about other transportation alternatives available to employees and students as well as a link to Metro's TripFinder feature (tripfinder.metrostlouis.org), which allows users to enter their start and end points and find a public transportation route that conforms to their schedules.

MetroLink/MetroBus

Full-time students and benefits-eligible faculty, staff, postdoctoral students and fellows have free access to the MetroBus and MetroLink through the Metro Universal Pass. To obtain a pass, visit parking.wustl.edu/upass.htm.

MetroBus provides service for three routes designed specifically for the WUSTL community.

- No. 1 Gold provides service connecting the Medical School with the Danforth Campus. This route also serves downtown Clayton and various shopping plazas.
- No. 2 Red has stops near the South 40 residential halls and provides service to neighborhoods south of campus and nearby grocery and retail stores. This route also connects WUSTL's North Campus facility with the Mallinckrodt Center on the Danforth Campus.
- The Green Line connects the Danforth Campus with the 560 Building, University City and surrounding neighborhoods that have University-owned apartment buildings.

Routes and schedules are available at parking.wustl.edu/around.htm.

The University also provides a "Danforth Campus/South 40 Circulator" that provides shuttle services from the MetroLink stations at Skinker Boulevard and Forest Park Parkway and Big Bend Boulevard and Forest Park Parkway to various locations around the Danforth Campus and the South 40.

RideFinders and car pooling

RideFinders is a regional rideshare program that helps commuters find other commuters for car pools or van pools. RideFinders assists commuters working in St. Louis City; St. Louis, Franklin, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri; and Madison, St. Clair and Monroe counties in Illinois. Visit ridefinders.org for information. Employees also can set up their own car pools with neighbors or friends who work at the University.

WeCar car-sharing program

With car sharing, you can have a vehicle when you need one if you take alternate transportation to campus. Registration is free and required to participate in the program. To reserve a car, visit wecar.com/wustl. The program is available to current WUSTL students, faculty, staff or qualified service providers age 18 and older with a valid driver's license and credit card. The hourly rate to use the car is $10.

Guaranteed Ride Home

WUSTL participates in the Guaranteed Ride Home Program through Citizens for Modern Transit. The program enables employees who carpool, take Metro or ride their bicycle to work to take a discounted taxi ride home if they or an immediate family member becomes sick or if they have unexpected, unscheduled overtime. Citizens for Modern Transit covers 80 percent of the trip's cost up to $60 per emergency ride home. Visit cmt-stl.org for more information.

Bicycling to work

Bicycle racks are located around the campuses near many buildings for the convenience of employees who choose to ride their bikes. There also are shower facilities at the Danforth University Center and the Athletic Complex on the Danforth Campus.

Burson named director of governor-elect's transition team

Charles W. Burson, J.D., visiting professor of law, is directing the transition team for Missouri Governor-elect Jay Nixon.

Nixon, who served as Missouri's attorney general from 1992-2008, met Burson when he was Tennessee's attorney general from 1988-1997. Burson later became counsel and chief of staff to former Vice President Al Gore.

After leaving the White House, Burson came to St. Louis to work as general counsel and executive vice president for Monsanto. A member of the School of Law's national council, Burson also teaches at the law school and is of counsel at Bryan Cave LLP.

"Governor-elect Nixon has made it clear that he expects an inclusive, smooth and transparent transition," Burson said. "During this transition process, we're going find the best and brightest minds to help him move Missouri forward.

"Running the state government is a huge job, and we're going to make sure he has the best team possible," Burson said.

Sports

Women's soccer goes on to sectionals

Senior goalkeeper Amanda Boe stopped three of four penalty kicks and freshman Alyssa Marulli netted the game-winning kick as the No. 8 women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA sectional semifinal with a 3-1 shootout victory over Illinois Wesleyan University Nov. 16.

Junior Becca Heymann and senior Lauren Mehner had successful kicks to make it 2-1 after three kickers. A stop by Boe on Annmarie Dolak's penalty kick set up the game-winning kick by Marulli.

On Nov. 15, senior Caitlin Malone scored two goals and junior Caryn Rosoff added another as the Bears posted a 3-0 win over Principia College in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Bears' next opponent is the NCAA tournament is No. 22 Wheaton College Friday, Nov. 21, in Wheaton, Ill.

Volleyball's title defense comes to end

The No. 3 volleyball team fell to No. 8 Ohio Northern University, 3-1, in the 2008 NCAA Division III Tournament Great Lakes Regional finals Nov. 15 in Springfield, Ohio.

WUSTL had won eight straight regional finals before the loss. The team advanced to the regional final after picking up 3-0 wins over Frostburg State University and the College of Mount St. Joseph.

Senior setter Audra Janak and junior middle hitter Erin Albers were named to the Great Lakes Regional all-tournament team. Albers led the Bears with 34 kills while hitting .418 with nine total blocks last week, and Janak tallied 110 assists to go along with 26 digs. Janak ends her career with 3,493 assists — fifth in school history.

Women's cross country in NCAAs

The No. 9 women's cross country team finished in third place and the men's team came in 10th at the 2008 NCAA Division III Midwest Region championships Nov. 15 in Rock Island, Ill.

The next day, the women's squad learned it had been awarded an at-large selection to compete in the 2008 NCAA Division III Championships Saturday, Nov. 22, in Hanover, Ind.

Sophomore Taryn Surtees paced the Bears last weekend with a fifth-place individual finish and a time of 21:52.6 on the 6K course.

She was one of four WUSTL student-athletes to earn All-Midwest Region recognition, along with freshman Elizabeth Phillips (12th place), junior Molly Schlamb (20th place) and junior Hope Rathnam (32nd place).

Sophomore Dave Spandorder paced the men's squad, finishing 41st overall with a time of 25:49.6 on the 8K course.

Football falls in season finale

The football team lost to No. 12 Case Western Reserve University 17-0 Nov. 15, finishing the season at 5-5 overall and 1-2 in the University Athletic Association.

Before the contest, WUSTL honored 14 seniors who played their final game with the Red and Green and posted an overall record of 24-16 (.600) in four seasons.

Men's basketball wins in Colorado

Junior Aaron Thompson scored a career-high 31 points to lead the top-ranked men's basketball team to an 82-64 victory over Colorado College Nov. 16 in the championship game of the Colorado College Tip-Off Classic.

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Notables

Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

Gauri Bhat, Ph.D., joins the Olin Business School as assistant professor of accounting. Bhat has taught at York University and the University of Toronto, where she did her graduate work. She has worked in the corporate sector at KPMG and Citibank and holds the following professional designations: CFA Charterholder; Chartered Accountant, India, and Cost and Works Accountant, India. Bhat will be teaching managerial accounting while pursuing research in the areas of banking, financial reporting, disclosure and corporate governance.

Ross C. Brownson, Ph.D., joins the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the School of Medicine as professor. His research interests are in chronic disease epidemiology, evidence-based public health, the promotion of physical activity, tobacco-use prevention and the evaluation of community-level interventions. A member of the Faculty Advisory Council of WUSTL's Institute for Public Health, Brownson co-directs the Prevention Research Center — jointly led by WUSTL and Saint Louis University — that develops innovative approaches to chronic disease prevention. Before joining WUSTL, Brownson served as a professor at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health. He earned a bachelor's degree in cellular biology and chemistry at the University of Montana and a doctorate in environmental health and epidemiology at Colorado State University.

Francesc Ferrer, Ph.D., joins the Department of Physics in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. He earned a doctorate from the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona in 2001 and has been a Marie Curie Fellow (2001-03) and Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow (2003-04) at the University of Oxford. Most recently, he held a postdoctoral position at Case Western Reserve University (2005-08). Ferrer's interests focus at the interface of astroparticle physics and theoretical cosmology, studying the composition and evolution of the universe and the implications of cosmological findings on models of particle physics. Ferrer is a member of the Pierre Auger Observatory, where he is working on the mystery of the origin of ultra-high energy cosmic rays.

Joseph K. Goodman, Ph.D., joins Olin Business School as assistant professor of marketing. Goodman is a graduate of the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. He received an award for teaching excellence at the University of Texas before accepting an assistant professorship at the University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business. Goodman's primary research interests include consumer behavior as it relates to decision-making and happiness, product assortment and variety, consumer superstitions and illusions of control.

Joseph Jez, Ph.D., joins the Department of Biology in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor, with a shared appointment at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Jez earned a bachelor's degree from Penn State University and a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed postdoctoral training at the Structural Biology Laboratory at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif. His research employs a combination of X-ray crystallography, enzymology, molecular biology, proteomics and cell biology to understand the molecular foundations of heavy metal detoxification in plants and to explore new metabolic pathways in nematodes that are of possible pharmaceutical interest.

Korina M. Jocson, Ph.D., joins the Department of Education in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. Her research and teaching interests include literacy, youth development, ethnic studies and cultural studies in education. In particular, she examines the changing nature of literacies and new media technologies in relation to learning, teaching and communication across contexts. Jocson has collaborated with university programs, schools and community-based organizations to promote literacy development among youth from diverse backgrounds. She is the author of a forthcoming book entitled "Youth Poets: Empowering Literacies In and Out of Schools." Jocson earned a doctorate in education in the area of language, literacy and culture at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral work at Stanford University.

William Ray True, Ph.D., joins the George Warren Brown School of Social Work as a research professor. He is the director of the Health Services Research and Development Group at the St. Louis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. True's research focuses on the psychiatric genetics of mental-health issues. His group uses administrative and clinical databases for constructing research designs for evaluating health outcomes. Before coming to WUSTL, he was a professor at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health. True earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, a master's degree in anthropology at Indiana University, a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in anthropology at the University of Florida.

Danko Turcic, Ph.D., joins Olin Business School as assistant professor of operations manufacturing management. Turcic, a native of the Czech Republic, has pursued studies from Prague to Cleveland. He earned a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. Before completing a degree at Case Western, Turcic was vice president at the Treasury Department of U.S. Bancorp, where he worked on modeling financial and operational risk. His areas of research involve the interface of operations and finance, supply-chain contracting, game theory and operational risk.

'Seeking Freedom' documentary wins regional Emmy

By Gerry Everding

"Seeking Freedom," a television documentary based on Washington University-led research into the courageous stories of African-American slaves who sued for their freedom in St. Louis courts, has been awarded a 2008 Mid-America Emmy in the category for historical documentaries.

Produced by the St. Louis-based, education-oriented HEC-TV cable broadcasting organization, the documentary features commentary by a range of WUSTL faculty and staff, most of whom were involved in the original "Freedom Suits" archival research for the project.

The HEC documentary was produced through extensive collaboration with the American Culture Studies Program in Arts & Sciences. Working closely with HEC producers was Fritz Vandover, a former Arts & Sciences student who led the creation of WUSTL's original Web site for the court records digitization project while pursuing a master's degree in history.

David T. Konig, Ph.D., professor of history in Arts & Sciences and of law who helped lead the original "Freedom Suits" research project, is featured extensively in the documentary. Other American culture studies faculty making brief appearances are Peter Kastor, Ph.D., associate professor of history and of American culture studies, and Wayne Fields, Ph.D., the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor of English and American culture studies.

The Freedom Suits initiative is part of the St. Louis Circuit Court Historical Records Project, a collaborative effort involving WUSTL, the Missouri State Archives, a division of the Missouri Secretary of State's office and the St. Louis Circuit Court Clerk's office.

Designed to preserve and make available online historically significant documents in St. Louis Circuit Court archives dating to the 1700s, the project has involved WUSTL faculty and staff since its inception.

HEC's "Seeking Freedom" documentary tells the human stories behind the antebellum Freedom Suits filed in the St. Louis Circuit Court.

The 45-minute documentary features Circuit Court Judge David Mason, J.D., a 1983 graduate of the School of Law, as narrator.

Filming and interviews began in 2003 in the same time frame as the launch of the Freedom Suits Web site: stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu.

Thanksgiving to be celebrated on campus

By Neil Schoenherr

Staying on campus during Thanksgiving break may seem like a lonely endeavor, but numerous groups on campus work hard to let students have a true taste of home during the holiday.

For starters, more than 20 students will have dinner with 10 host families as part of the Home Plate program.

Started by Risa Zwerling Wrighton, wife of Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, in 2001, the program aims to enhance students' experiences by connecting them with host families from the University community and surrounding areas for home-cooked meals and outings around St. Louis.

The program has grown exponentially in recent years, now serving 200-250 new students each year and connecting them with more than 200 host families.

"It's a great way for host families to feel as though they are a part of the University and to feel they are doing a good deed," Zwerling Wrighton said. "And students always love a good home-cooked meal, especially at Thanksgiving."

Aly Abrams, associate director of development for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, and her husband, Patrick Kelly, have hosted students since the program's inception and will do so again this Thanksgiving.

"For the past few years, we've invited students to our home for holiday dinners," Abrams said.

"It's a great way to extend ourselves in the University community, and we find it's always a pleasure to host exceptional WUSTL students in our home," Abrams said.

Other Thanksgiving celebrations will be happening around campus as well, including:

• Dining Services will host a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the trimmings from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Thanksgiving Day in the Village Cafe.

• The 14th annual Olin Business School Thanksgiving dinner will be held from noon-2 p.m. Thanksgiving Day at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. Olin students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends are welcome, along with their guests. All ages are welcome and a "crafts corner" will be available for children. For more information, call 935-6300.

• School of Social Work students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the annual Thanksgiving dinner from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, in Brown Hall. For more information, e-mail erochman@wustl.edu.

Happy Thanksgiving

The Record will not be published next week due to Thanksgiving. Look for our next edition Dec. 4.

Of note

T. Scott Isbell, Ph.D., clinical fellow in pathology and immunology, has received a two-year, $100,000 2008 Past-Presidents' Scholarship Award from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry's Van Slyke Foundation to support postdoctoral training in laboratory medicine. …

LeAndra Luecke, graduate student in anthropology in Arts & Sciences, has received a one-year, $4,320 grant from the Riverbanks Conservation Support Fund for research titled "Nutrient and Toxin Analysis of Foods Consumed by Mantled and Black Howling Monkeys in Mangrove Habitat." …

Rakesh Nagarajan, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and immunology, and **Mark Watson**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and immunology, will head a new Knowledge Center for the caTissue Core/caTissue Suite software under a three-year, $1.25 million grant from the National Cancer Institute. The funds will allow them to help cancer researchers everywhere make use of caTissue, software they developed for standardizing storage of data on cancer patient tissue samples. …

The WUSTL chapter of the Theta Xi Fraternity has been recognized as an "All True Men" chapter. The designation recognizes the demonstrated commitment of the membership of a chapter to live out the fraternity's core historic values of leadership, brotherhood, scholarship and service. The WUSTL chapter is the eighth chapter in Theta Xi to be granted this status.

Obituaries

Lisa R. Williams, secretary III, 47

By Beth Miller

Lisa R. Williams, a secretary III in the Facilities Management Department (FMD) at the School of Medicine, died Oct. 25, 2008. She was 47.

Williams worked for Jim Stueber, director of Facilities Engineering, since 1998. She previously worked for the Department of Radiology from 1993-98.

"She was a remarkable employee who had a very serving heart," Stueber said. "She was the go-to person for a lot of things in FMD — she was the computer-savvy expert in the department and did a lot of extra things that were outside of her job. I called her the Energizer Bunny. She wanted to help everybody, and everybody enjoyed working with her."

Joanne Coughlin, executive secretary in the Facilities Management Department, developed a close friendship with Williams during the 10 years they worked together.

"She was incredible," Coughlin said. "She was a whiz at computers. Everybody went to Lisa with questions about computers and software. She was an extremely caring and thoughtful person and will be missed by all."

Roy Van Hee, project engineering manager in the Facilities Management Department, wrote a poem in memory of Williams, titled "We're Not the Same," which remembers her for her smile and joy.

Williams is survived by her husband, Larry; a son, Larry Jr.; and parents, M.L. and Ima Johns, of Arkansas.

Emory memorial service

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Dec. 1 to celebrate the life of Jean L. Emory.

Emory, who died Oct. 31, 2008, was a beloved member of the Washington University community. She was the wife of C. William Emory, Ph.D., professor emeritus of marketing at the Olin Business School, who was on its faculty from 1955-1991 and who died in 1998.

The service will take place in Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall, and a reception will follow.

Washington People

Utility player

Lasater takes on many roles to keep athletics running smoothly

By Leslie Gibson McCarthy

It's the untold story of the volleyball team's 2007 national championship run: exceptional athletes, a seasoned coach and Kathy Lasater's socks.

A superstitious Bears fan who never misses a big game, Lasater, intramural administrative assistant in the Department of Athletics, traveled to Bloomington, Ill., last November with a group of WUSTL employees. As Lasater, a jovial woman with silver hair and a lustrous smile, tells the story, she bubbles with excitement.

"I had found these socks at Walgreens, heavy cotton but kind of nubby with red, green and white woven in a swirling pattern into the fabric," she says. "At first, we were doing OK. We won the first game, but then the lead changed, and I took my shoes off and started pacing like I usually do if the games get tight.

"When we started losing, I had to do something, so the socks switched feet and we started winning again. The socks were changing feet all night!"

The socks worked their sartorial magic — the Bears won in five games — and the rest is WUSTL athletic history. It's history Lasater could pull up a chair and talk about for hours.

Lasater is one of those staff members often overlooked, a behind-the-scenes person who is so much a part of the fabric of the University they often are taken for granted. Yet, try to imagine life without them.

Officially, Lasater has been intramural assistant for 20 of her 28 years at WUSTL. Unofficially, she also is den mother, babysitter, promotions director, caterer, florist, driver, hospitality coordinator, assistant coach, head cheerleader, friend, confidante and No. 1 Bears fan.

"Creating a positive undergraduate experience is one of the University's top priorities, and many contribute to that effort," says Justin X. Carroll, assistant vice chancellor for students and dean of students, who was in that contingent to Bloomington last November. "But there are also those who work tirelessly behind the scenes who go unrecognized. That's Kathy. She has done so much in 28 years to enhance the experience of not only our student-athletes but the entire campus community."

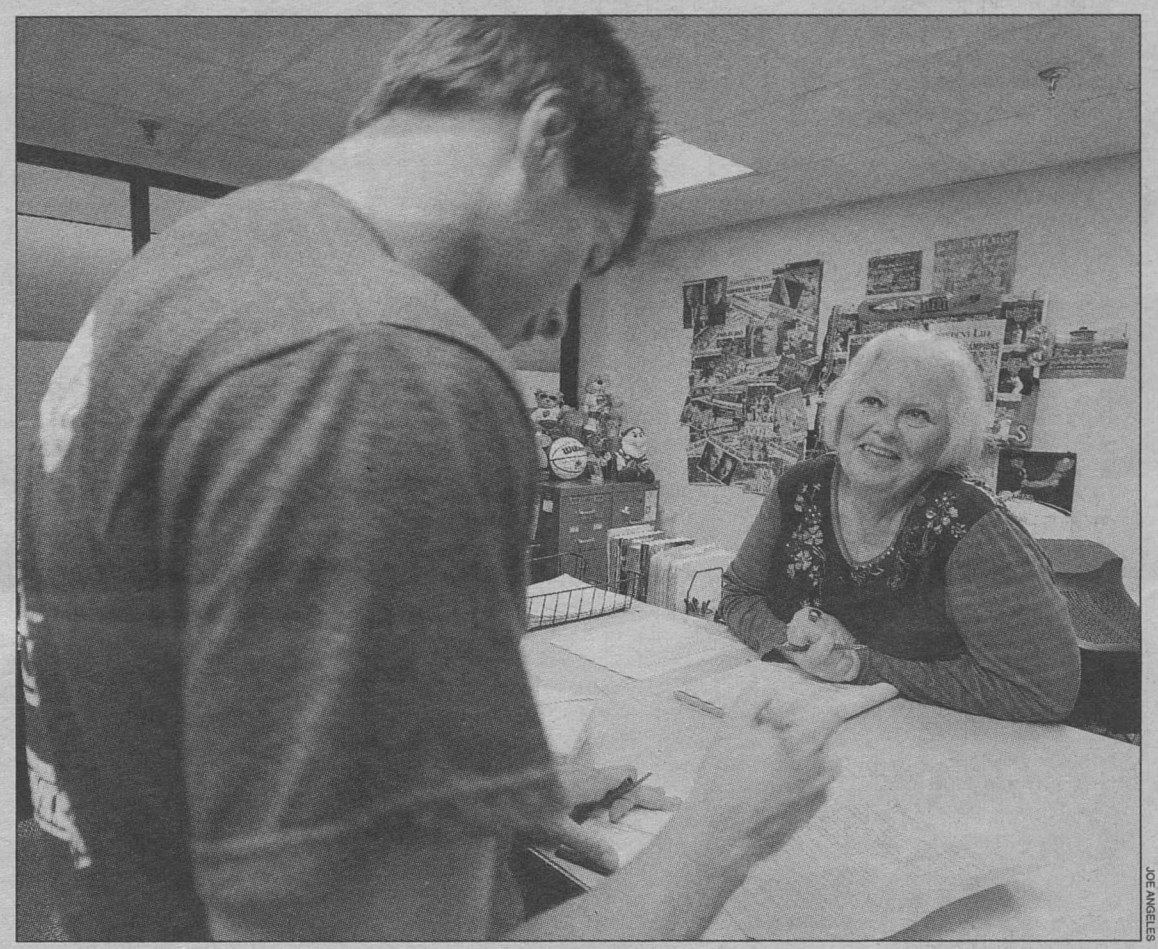
Kathy Lasater

Years at WUSTL: 28; 8 in student affairs, 20 in the athletic department

Education: B.A., education, 1978, Harris-Stowe State University; M.Ed., 1979, Saint Louis University

If she didn't work at WUSTL: "I have a secret desire to be in a rock band," she says. "Have a tambourine in my hand, doing 'Ooh, ooh, ooh, baby.' But it would have to be a quality act. I'd love to be a backup singer for Eric Clapton."

If she could have any other job at WUSTL: "I'd love to teach," she says. "It's the finest profession you can have, a noble career. Who's to say I won't go back to it? Maybe English literature."



JOE ANGELES

Kathy Lasater, intramural administrative assistant, helps junior Kris Chenard as he registers his intramural basketball team in the Intramural Office. "Anytime we have tried something new in the athletic department, she has been the one to spearhead it," men's basketball coach Mark Edwards says. "She brings the human element to all athletic events — and has from the very beginning."

JOE ANGELES

Kathy Lasater with members of the athletic department staff she calls "her boys." From left: John Schael, athletic director; Sean Curtis, intramural director and women's golf coach; Joe Worlund, assistant athletic director; Trevor MacDonald (kneeling), marketing and promotions director; Lasater; Chris Mitchell, sports information director; and Vincent Novicki, assistant sports information director.

The human element

Whether it's typing a letter to a recruit, organizing the hospitality room of one of the annual tournaments, baking brownies for tournament-bound Bears or helping a young assistant coach get acclimated to WUSTL, Lasater is the glue that holds together the athletic department.

"Kathy is the type of person who would do absolutely anything for anybody," basketball coach Mark Edwards says. "To give her some recognition is great for all of us. Anytime we have tried something new in the department, she has been the one to spearhead it. She brings the human element to all athletic events — and has from the very beginning."

Basketball is special to Lasater, and she sits in the same spot at home games — the top row of the south end of the bleachers — so she can have a good view of the court and the bench. Unless the game gets tight — then she starts her famous pacing.

Edwards says Lasater takes it upon herself to get him a red carnation to wear as a boutonniere in big games. "Every year when we'd play the University of Chicago, their coach, Mike McGrath, would ask Kathy where his was," Edwards says. "One year she surprised him with a white carnation. She's bought him one ever since."

Football coach Larry Kindbom says Lasater's office is always occupied with people talking to her about their kids or their lives. "Usually there is great laughter in every instance," he says.

Lasater also is godmother to Kindbom's daughter Kelsey, now 15. "What we see in her with our daughter is what we see in her with everyone that has graced her office," Kindbom says. "She always greets visitors with a smile, and they all leave with a little laughter feeling good about themselves."

Women's basketball coach Nancy Fahey says Lasater helps bring cohesiveness to the athletic department. "A few years ago, one of our assistants left and went to a different school," Fahey says. "I asked him how it was going, and he said, 'It's fine, but we don't have a Kathy.'"

Whatever is asked

Lasater often can be found in the intramural office on the second floor of the Athletic Complex. She has a desk in the corner, but don't count on her sitting there for eight hours. She's behind the big steel counter signing up students for intramurals or dashing around the building doing whatever is asked of her.

The office is warm, welcoming and filled with WUSTL memorabilia and bulletin boards that are a hodgepodge of photos and headlines.

"Behind the scenes, she's the one people rely on for help," says intramural director and women's golf coach Sean Curtis. "She has a real passion for this department."

Kathy deflects any of the praise thrown her way. "In my job description, there's the line 'and duties as assigned by the director of athletics.'" She laughs. "Those 'duties' end up being, on any given day, 50-60 percent of my job. You never know what you're going to be called to do.

"I just do whatever they ask me to do," she says. "(Athletic Director) John Schael has an attitude that he wants this department to operate at the best level it can. There is a high level of professionalism here, and anything less is unacceptable. There's an expectation of excellence, so you do the best you can for anyone in this building."

Lasater came to the University in 1980, first as administrative assistant in the Office of Student Affairs, where she worked with Carroll, then to the athletic department in 1988. Before that, she was a reading teacher for one year after earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1978 from Harris-Stowe State University and a master's degree from Saint Louis University in 1979.

"I loved to teach, but I didn't like the paperwork," she says.

She has a high appreciation for the WUSTL student-athlete. "These kids, these athletes, are all something, aren't they?" she says. "They manage their time extremely well. Some of them could probably play Division I, but they come here for the academics. They're driven."

Bleeding red and green

As for outside interests, she admits there are times when it's good to get away and spend time with a good book, good friends or her family, which includes three generations of nieces and nephews. Lasater says she's constantly looking to improve herself. "If it's not challenging, it's not interesting," she says. She takes classes at night and is working her way through a creative writing course this semester.

Lasater also ushers at St. Louis Cardinals games when her WUSTL duties don't conflict. She started out working in concessions but "got tired of coming home smelling like bratwurst." She has worked all over the stadium and has a permanent home now in right field. But her athletic heart will always belong to the WUSTL Bears, and her eyes dance when she talks about the most recent titles.

"Last year was amazing — to have three (national titles) in one year! There are stories about all three of those teams that could be made into movies," she says.

She speaks with pride about men's basketball, recalling how the players acted at the banquet honoring the Final Four teams. The other teams were introduced first, with the starters and bench players ending up in separate spots on the dais — except for the Bears, who made a point to stand together even as they were introduced separately.

"I just knew that was a sign, and that this year would be different," she says. "The entire weekend was magical — like 'Hoosiers.'"

Or when the men's tennis team played for the title the afternoon before Commencement. The Undergraduate Recognition ceremony for the School of Engineering was being held in the gym while 20 athletic department staff members crowded into the office of Sports Information Director Chris Mitchell to listen to an Internet broadcast. "A huge roar went up from the office when we won," she says. "Chris was e-mailing Chancellor (Mark) Wrighton, who announced it later to everyone. It was something."

She smiles at the memory. She smiles at a lot of memories.

The socks, she says, are going to be framed, along with a piece of the gym floor from the title match that the players all signed — memorabilia that will go in her office with the other knickknacks.

She looks around that office and opens her arms as if she'd like to encompass the entire building. "This is like family to me," she says. "It's a small town, but one where everyone works together. It's a wonderful atmosphere."

Would she call herself the mayor of the small town? "Oh, no. I'm not the one in charge." She smiles and gets that twinkle in her eye.

"I'm the person who makes the person in charge look good," she says.